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DUCKS and GREEN PEAS,

OR, THE

NEWCASTLE RIDER;

K A

F A R C E

OF ONE ACT,

FOUNDED IN FACT.

Dramatis Personæ.

Mr. MANLY,		LANDLORD,
Lord JOSEPH,		WAITERS,

Mrs. MANLY.

SCENE, HARROGATE.

NEWCASTLE:

Printed in the Year, M,DCC,LXXXV.

THE
NEWCASTLE RIDER.

SCENE the FIRST.

A low Room in the QUEEN'S HEAD.

Enter LORD JOSEPH, *speaking*

HERE—house, landlord,—where the devil
are all the people!

Enter WAITER.

Coming, coming, Sir.

Jos. Coming, coming—yes, but you are a
damn'd long while tho' a coming.—Where's the
master of the house?

Wait. Busy with some other customers, sir,
Can I serve your honour?—

Jos. No—I choole to give my orders to the
master, and then I am sure to be well attended.

Wait. Perhaps not (*aside*) I shall send him to
you, sir, immediately.

Jos. I expect you will —Well, the Devil's in
it if I can't take a little state upon me now and
then—What! tho' I am but a Clerk or Rider
I'm very positive I am personable enough to
pass for as good a man as my master.—This hat
(*taking it off and admiring it*) will at any time
do me credit: and I have observed in my late
rounds, a greater respect than usual was paid
me, and I am confident it was upon account of
it; certainly it sets me off to the highest advan-
tage, and gives me an air of superior conse-
quence.

Enter

Enter LANDLORD.

Servant, sir, your most humble servant, sir, you are welcome to Harrogate.

Jos. Are you the landlord of the house?

Landl. Yes, sir—at your service.

Jos. Shew me an upper room then fellow, I hate those pitiful low damp rooms that are only a receptacle for every dirty raggamuffin that comes.

Landl. Sir, I beg your pardon there, you are greatly mistaken, we don't harbour any such.

Jos. Don't talk to me, fellow!—but let me have supper got ready quickly, dy'e hear.—What victuals have you in the house?

Landl. We have great variety, sir,—such as beef, mutton, veal, lamb—

Jos. Rot your variety, none of those are supper meat for me—Have you any game, geese, or ducks in the house?

Landl. No game, sir, but exceeding fine fat ducks, ready for spitting.

Jos. Let me have a couple got ready then directly.

Landl. A couple, sir?

Jos. Yes! a couple sir! and let them be fine and fat (as you say) or else, dem me I can't touch them.

Landl. Are there any more gentleman to join your company, sir?

Jos. No—What then?—Why do you ask?

Landl. Nay, nothing, sir,—I only thought you might have made a mistake, because—because

cause a couple of such ducks as mine are, wou'd serve three or four reasonable gentlemen.

Jos So, then, you think me unreasonable, do you? Dem you, what do you mean by that? if I have a mind to order a dozen (provided I pay for them) what is it to you?—But to be something more unreasonable, as you call it, let me have a peck of green peas got ready with them.

Landl No offence, I hope, sir, I beg your pardon, sir, you shall have them with all expedition.—Mercy on me, a couple of ducks and a peck of peas, for himself only, he must have a devilish stomach to dispatch them (*aside*) pray, sir,—are you come to drink the waters.

Jos Confound your waters;—do I look like a water-drinker?

Landl Sir, I am sorry you shou'd take it amiss, I only thought you might have come, like other gentry, to spend the season.

Jos Damn your thoughts, and your seasons too, all seasons are alike to me, only let me desire you'll take care my ducks are well season'd.—In the first place shew me a room above, fellow.

Landl This way, sir, if you please.

SCENE the SECOND.

The KITCHEN.—Two WAITERS.

Harry. A Very strange fellow this that's just alighted; I warrant he's some upstart or another, flush of money for the present, and consequently flush of pride.—However I shall

shall pay him the less respect for those fine airs he gives himself.

Tom. And so shall I—unless I thought he would come down handsomely at parting, but that is hardly to be expected from such as he.

Har. It is the moderate people, *Tom*, such as are good humour'd, who speak civilly to you for what they want, that are of the most generous principles; there is a secret pleasure in waiting upon such.

Tom. Aye! that is true—whilst the proud, surly, morose fellow, not only gives one a great deal of trouble, but uses one ill into the bargain.

Har. I'll say with you *Tom*. Why dogs have better names, and better usage sometimes than we have.

Tom. Why, aye—'tis a sad life one leads amongst such; and only tolerable upon account of the perquisites; was it not for those I wou'd turn collier, and bid adieu to the face of day ere I would attend them.

Har. It is really surprising to me that people shou'd put themselves out of temper for mere trifles and make themselves and every one about them unhappy; when a mild behaviour, a kind word or look wou'd command our respect and ready attendance, a thousand times before all the most passionate actions and domineering expressions in the world; but here comes our master, this genius has put him into a very pretty huff already.

Enter

Enter LANDLORD.

Landl. Zounds ! I have kept this house many years, and have had the greatest variety of guests, yet never was so bullied in my life before.— Here *Harry*, bid the cook let a couple of the fattest ducks to the fire immediately, and help to shiel a peck of peas,—and do you, *Tom*, go and lay the cloth in the blue chamber for yonder hasty spark. (*exit Waiters*) I am afraid he won't have patience till they are ready : Yet, tho' he's a great oddity, he seems very happy, he laughs, sings, and whistles, till the house rings again.

Re-enter Harry. Sir, there is a carriage just come to the door, with a lady and gentleman, and by the luggage it looks as tho' they were come to make some stay.

Landl. I shall attend them

Exit.

SCENE the THIRD.

Enter Mr and Mrs MANLY.

Landl. Sir, and Madam,—you are heartily welcome to *Harrogate*.—Wou'd you choole any sort of refreshment after your journey?

Mrs Manly. Yes, Landlord, and I care not how quickly as I have not broke my fast since noon—There is an agreeable flavour comes from your kitchen, I think there must be either a goose or ducks roasting, and a little of either wou'd be very acceptable to me.

Landl. You judge very right, Madam, there are a couple of very fine ducks at the fire, but they are for a gentleman above stairs,

Mrs Man. What is the gentleman alope, and hath he ordered the ducks and peas for himself only?

Landl. Yes, Madam, and I own his orders rather surprized me. I only asked him if he expected more company, as I thought a couple of such fat ducks as mine something extravagant for one person,—when he flew into a violent passion, told me, if he had a mind to order a dozen, provided he paid for them, what was that to me.

Mr Manly, He was right there, Landlord, yet I think he can't have any objections to a companion or two, to partake with him, so we would wish you to go with our compliments to him, and acquaint him, that a gentleman and lady, just arrived, will do themselves the honour to sup with him, if he pleases. In the mean time we will take a walk into your garden.

Landl. Very well, sir, I'll wait upon him.

Exeunt OMNES.

SCENE the FOURTH.

JOSEPH discovered lolling upon a settee, singing,

Toll loll de roll loll, &c. So far, so well, this is life as long as it lasts. I can enjoy myself now, however, without being always upon the mechanic order, like a horse in a mill, (*twirling his hat about*) This hat is the very thing, the *bon ton* as I may say. I think my money well bestow'd in the purchase—I wou'd not have been without it upon any account, and value it above any thing I can name, excepting—*Aye,*
let

Let me see, excepting ducks and green peas, and they are incomparable things, and of which I shall have my belly full presently—Egal! I will live in clover to-night—by Jupiter—I wish they were ready—I am pretty sharp set—and these people are confounded tedious;—O! here comes Mr Boniface. (*Enter landlord.*) Well, fellow, is my supper ready yet?

Landl. Very near, sir,—but, sir, I hope you will not think me intrusive, when I am desired to inform you, a gentleman and his lady, just alighted from their carriage, understanding you was alone, beg the favour to be permitted to join in company, and partake of your supper.

Jos. How, sir, partake of my supper, say you? No, no,—no such things—Dem me, I ordered it for myself, and I will have it for myself, and as I shall pay for what I order, let me be no more interrupted, nor troubled with your impertinence, but, begone, and hasten my supper.

Landl. Yes sir.—Zoons! a proud fellow, a devilish proud unmannerly fellow! (*aside and exit*)

Jos. Sup with me, quotha—hold you there,—as I stopped here with a full intention to indulge my appetite for once, I will admit of no interlopers, by Jupiter, a couple too!—I thank you Mr Boniface, for your dam'd complimentary message; zoons, I shou'd not have so much as a rump, perhaps, for myself, if they are half as hungry as I am—No, no, by this hat I'll take care of number one—Let me see, I fancy I shall lay in the next room, I'll see what sort of a bed there is.—(*Goes off singing.*)

SCENE

SCENE the FIFTH.

The GARDEN.—Mr and Mrs. MANLY seated.

Mr Manly. Well, my dear, it is impossible to judge of the beauties of this village, from the transcendent view we have had of it this evening; yet it seems to be very rural and pleasant, though something open and wild.—How are you after your journey?

Mrs Man. Pretty well, my dear; but I hope I shall be much better after a little supper—and here comes the landlord

Mr Man. Well, landlord, have you delivered our message to the gentleman as we desired.

Landl. Yes, sir, and I am both sorry and ashamed to tell you the event of it.

Mr Man. Why, sure he hath had not the ill manners to refuse us—hath he?

Landl. Too true, sir, and in very rude terms too; he said no person shou'd partake of his supper, but swore at my impertinence, as he stil'd it.

Mr Man. Why, you really surprize me, landlord,—he shews but small signs of gentility by such unmannerly behaviour; but, perhaps, he may think two, too many, to be admitted to sup with him; for my own part, I value not his ducks and peas a rush, I can sup upon any thing else you have in the house; and was it not for the delay, I should order a fresh couple for ourselves; but as *Mrs Manly* wants her supper, and the ducks are almost ready, I think he certainly cannot be so very rude as to refuse
the

the company of a lady to sup with him. Therefore, for her sake, (for nothing else cou'd induce me) I beg you will go again, and inform him I request that she alone may be permitted to partake of his supper.

Landl. Very well sir, I shall go, but am greatly afraid by the specimen he has given, I shall be no better.

Excunt OMENS.

SCENE the SIXT

The Blue Chamber -- A Table with the Cloith spread.

Jos. Toll loll de roll &c Dem thole fellows, —Here, landlord—waiter—house,—Why the devil don't you bring up supper; if it was not so late in the evening, by Jupiter I wou'd remove my quarters elsewhere (*enter landlord.*) Well, fellow, why the plague do you come empty handed;—Where's the supper:

Landl. 'Tis just a coming up, sir: but I—beg your pardon for this second entrruption; the gentleman has sent me again, to beg the favour you will admit his lady to your company, and supper; as to himself he doth not mind it, his concern is upon her account, sir; and I really believe he hath some reason; for she is, I fancy, in a situation that requires some indulgence: therefore, in consideration of the lady's condition, hope I may have the pleasure to return with a mild and complying answer from you.

Jos. I thought I had satisfied you sufficiently before.—Dem you, d'ye mean downright to affront me,—either get along about your business,

ness, send up my supper immediately, or I'll kick you down stairs, leave your dam'd troublesome house, and never set my foot in it again; for I tell you positively for the last time, was she the queen herself, she should not sup with me, you scoundrel. *Exit.*

Landl. Confound the unmannerly fellow; I am ashamed to think I have such a brate in my house. *Exit.*

SCENE the SEVENTH.

The Parlour,——Mr and Mrs MANLY.

Mrs Man. I am sorry, my dear, you shou'd give yourself and the landlord, so much trouble upon my account.—I own, indeed, I had set my mind upon having some; or you know, my dear, I am not otherwise very particular.

Mr Man. 'Tis upon that very account, my dear, that I am so anxious, and shall be extremely chagrin'd to find you disappointed; but he must be void of ever generous and manly sentiment, and polite accomplishment, to refuse you.—But here comes the landlord to satisfy us, tho' if I may judge by his countenance, it is worse and worse.—Well, landlord, have you had better success this time?

Landl. Quite the contrary, I do assure you, sir, and it gives me great uneasiness to inform you, his behaviour was much more uncivil this time than before, and beg you'll excuse me mentioning particulars, for I would not willingly shock your lady's delicacy with a repetition.

Mr

Mr Man. Why, landlord, I confess you greatly amaze me.—I am a gentlemen of a considerable fortune, and always found my company acceptable amongst the best.—I have not been used to a refusal of this nature, and did I really know the person to be any thing of a gentleman, (which I am confident he is not) I shou'd resent his behaviour in a proper manner.—Pray what kind of a man is he?

Landl. Why, sir, the man is really personable, is genteely drest, and is, I think, naturally of a chearful disposition, tho' his carriage to me was so surly.—He had a very handsome gold lac'd hat on, and which, indeed, he seems somehow to take a deal of pride in.

Mr Man. Is there not a possibility to procure me a sight of him, (unseen myself) for I own his strange uncivil conduct, hath greatly excited my curiosity?

Landl. Yes, sir, I think it may be done, supper is just going up, I will step before and acquaint him, leave the door open, and if you follow me, you will have the opportunity.

Mr Man. Very well, I'll go with you—My dear you'll stay here in the intrim.

Mrs Man. Certainly; but pray, my dear, don't be seen by him, I am afraid lest the gross affront he hath put upon you, should induce you to quarrel with him, and that wou'd terrify me.

Mr Man. O! be under no apprehensions of that nature, I beg of you, for upon proper consideration he is too contemptible an object for my resentment.

Exeunt with landlord.

SCENE

SCENE the EIGHTH

JOSEPH *Sings.*

THIS riders only life enjoy,
 They travel through the land.
 Variety can never cloy,
 All pleasures they command.

Toll loll de roll.

They take great state upon 'em,
 Where e'er they're unknown,
 And love what's magnum bonum,
 Nor envy kings their crown.

'Tis true their treated with neglect,
 Whilst they remain at home;
 But always meet with great respect,
 When e'er abroad they roam.

Then who wou'd not a Rider be,
 To lead a life like this;
 From every care and trouble free,
 Enjoying earthly bliss.

There's for you, ye parchment bound apprentices,
 Ye hen-peck'd husbands, ye gouty footed
 drones, get a horse like me, and travel from
 place to place, live like kings, and sup upon
 ducks and green peas, as I am going to do.

Enter LANDLORD.Mr. MANLY *looking in at the Door.*

Landl. Sir, I am come to see that all things
 be in order, your supper is coming up.
Jes S'blood, sir, if it does not, I shall be

for going down to my supper, for you have been confounded tedious about it.

Landl. Sir, I hope you'll find it so well done, as to make full amends for the delay.

Jos. I shall be glad if it proves so, (*Struts about and sings.*)

Mr Man. Sure I am not deceived! this must be my clerk (*aside*) *Enters.* Ha! Joseph, My Lord Joseph, is this you, ha, ha, ha!

Jos. O! the Devil, my master! (*aside and throwing away his hat*) Sir,—I, I, I am glad to see your honour,—indeed I d, d, did not expect you here.

Mr Man. No, I am certain you did not, or you would not have behaved in the manner you have done: I am not altogether displeased you should keep up the dignity of my house in a proper way; but you have most highly offended me, to find you capable of such gross disrespect to the fair sex, whose company, no man of the least common sense or decency would refuse to accept of—What can you say for yourself in this respect.

Jos. Sir, I sincerely beg pardon; if I had but had the least notion it had been you or my lady I should never have done such a thing, do assure you.

Mr Man. That I really believe, but you should not have acted in so rude a manner to any one, when so civil a message was sent.

Jos. Sir, I own I put up here with an intention of enjoying myself a little freely, as the

only place I could properly do it at before my return home. In the towns where I had your business to transact, I always conducted myself with propriety, and hope my accounts will entirely satisfy you upon inspection.

Mr *Man*. I dont in the least dispute it. I hope you will have no objections to your mistress and me partaking of your ducks and green peas now?

Jos. O I certainly no, sir, they are intirely at your honour's service; I can submit to humbler diet again, for all my late stately airs.

Mr *Man*. No Jos-ph, no, you shall find I can bury my resentment much quicker than you raised, since you have provided the supper, you shall absolutely sit down with us, go and endeavour to make peace with you mistress, and desire her to come up stairs to supper.

Jos. I am glad its no worse—by Jupiter, I shall have some ducks and green peas yet, (*aside and exit.*)

Mr *Man*. Well landlord, you seem somewhat amazed at this comical transaction.

Land. Truly, sir, I can't say but I am.

Mr *Man*. I would always wish my riders should make an appearance to credit me when upon their journies; it is not material to me what state they take upon them at the public-houses they frequent, provided they are just and actual in their accounts upon their return home;—and thro' this man hath given himself the extraordinary airs upon this occasion, it is,
upon

upon the whole, a very laughable affair, and fancy Lord Joseph with his ducks and green peas will be long remembered here.—He is, notwithstanding, a very valuable servant, and I have ever found him strictly honest and diligent in his dealings with me and my numerous correspondents. therefore I shall excuse his rather uncommonly rude behaviour for this bout.

Enter Harry, Sir, the lady begs to be excused coming up—but desires your company below. Supper is on the table.

Mr Man. Well, I shall attend her.

(Exeunt with Landlord)

Enter T O M.

Tom. Ha, ha, ha!—upon my soul the fine joke I ever enjoyed in my life,—who d'ye think *Harry*, this pretty spark turns out to be?

Har. Nay, that I can't tell, but I have shrewd guess he is no better than we both supposed him.

Tom. Right,—this incomparable, blustering, hectoring, strutting, ducks and green peas gennious, is no other than clerk to the gentleman and lady, whom he refused to sup with him.

Har. Well I thought as much—who the deuce would ever trust appearances again after this.

Tom. True—but I can't help laughing to think, how from the highest pinnacle of grandeur, this mighty hero is dwindled into poor Joe, the Newcastle Rider,—Ha, ha, ha!

The E N D.

The NEWCASTLE RIDER,

A T A L E.

MEN's minds, and likewise their opinions,
Are various, as the size of onions ;
Compar'd they suit just to a tittle,
For some are great, and some are little ;
Some oblong are, and some are round,
With different fancies men abound.

Some men i' th' morning, when they rise,
Will tell you, it will rain by the skies ;
Because they're red, or black, or blue,
They guess their changes by their hue ;
Yet e'er an hour passes over,
They other sentiments discover ;
And for a certainty declare
The day is likely to prove fair,
Or calm, or windy, or frost or snow ;
And yet they never truly know,
But only for the sake of talk,
They others' expectations baulk.

Some others, menial slaves in trade,
By masters or superiors paid,
Will (when they can) transform their shape,
And gentlemen of fashion ape ;
An instance and a true one too,
In my succeeding tale I'll shew.

There is a wealthy thriving town,
To tradesmen and to merchants known ;
'Tis seated in *Northumberland*,
And doth upon the borders stand.

Newcastle upon Tyne's the name,
Which long has stood enroll'd in fame.

As all things are ordain'd by fate,
There liv'd within this town of late,
A sprightly enterprising youth,
Whose name I'm told, is *J----h B---h*,
He really was a gallant spark,
And to one 'Squire *C-----n* clerk:
His rider too, from town to town,
To transact business up and down.

These riders are well known for smarts,
And chiefly pitch'd on for their parts:
As health, and sense enough (tho' young)
And volubility of tongue
To talk of trade with different men,
Likewise a quick command of pen.

The time at length again comes on,
When our friend *Joseph* must be gone,
And take his half-yearly round,
Where trade and money may be found:
His master's correspondents visit,
And orders fresh from them solicit:
Yet was resolv'd before he went,
A little money should be spent,
In certain necessities needful,
Which shews that *Joseph* was grown heedful;
That he might good appearance make,
For credit and his master's sake.

What things they were we have forgot,
And truly, sirs, it matters not,
We only know of one and that,
Was a new jemmey, gold-lac'd hat;

But *Joseph* would not have this known,
 And so he travelled out of town
 Some way before he put it on.
 But when he'd gotten far enough,
 To fear no jeering friends reproof;
 He gave his nag a gentle swich,
 And threw his old hat in the ditch;
 Then from his great coat lining drew,
 His gold-lac'd nab to public view;
 And as he road along at leisure,
 He view'd it o'er and o'er with pleasure;
 Then fiercely clapt it on his head,
 And look'd a deal worse taught then fed.
 Now let days, weeks, and months pass over,
 That better scenes we may discover,
 And to the very crisis come,
 By bringing *Joseph* nearer home:
 From Leeds, about noon time of day,
 To *Knaresbro'*, *Joseph* bent his way;
 But travelling slowly, it was late,
 When he arriv'd at *Harrogate*;
 So thought he would stay there that night,
 And at the *Queen's Head* did alight;
 Order'd his horse both corn and hay,
 And to the kitchen bent his way;
 And took upon himself some stave,
 Whilst landlord did his orders wait;
 A room above—here quickly show,
 I hate those dampy rooms below;
 And let me have my supper soon,
 Be sure that it be nearly done.

" What can I have ?" Sir what you please,
 " Then hark ye—get me *Ducks* and *Peas*,
 " A couple? yes, and fat ones too,
 " Or else by G—d they will not do :
 " And let a peck of pease be boil'd,
 " Or otherwise my suppers spoil'd ;
 " Set them directly to the fire."

Sir,—all shall be as y^{ou} desire.

A chariot to the door did come,
 Which made the landlord quit the room,
 To ope' the door, from whence there came,
 A gentleman and lovely dame.

The gentleman within the house,
 Directly handed then his spoose ;
 The lady to the landlord said,
 " I wish some supper could be had,
 And pray ye let me have it soon,
 I have not broke my fast since noon ;
 Pray what is roasting at your fire ?
 Some such thing I should desire ;
 It must be goose or duck I smell,
 And either would content me well."

Madam you're right (the landlord said)
 Two ducks before the fire is laid,
 And peas are boiling on the fire,
 Both which a Gemman did desire,
 Should be got ready for his supper,
 Who's in a room we call an upper,
 For there indeed he would be shewn :
 " What, is the Gentleman alone ?"
 Yes, madam, he came single here,
 And is a merry man I'll swear ;

He struts about and laughs and talks,
 Sings, and *toll toll ders* as he walks.—
 “ O! Landlord, as to that ne’er mind,
 To something else I’m more inclin’d;
 Pray go you with our service to him,
 And tho’ perhaps we do not know him,
 Tell him too strangers just alighted,
 Like other travellers be-nighted,
 Send him their compliments by you,
 And will themselves the honour do,
 Of his good supper to partake,
 For company and friendship’s sake ”

Upstairs streight the landlord went,
 And to the ground his body bent,
 “ Sir, I’m afraid I do intrude,
 But hope you will not think me rude;
 A gentleman and lady fair,
 Who are but just arrived here,
 Their compliments unto you pay,
 By me sir, in a civil way,
 And humbly hope you’ll be so kind,
 To let their company be join’d
 To yours, good sir, and if you please,
 They’ll sup upon your ducks and peas.”

“ How, join with me, sir, do you say?
 No, no such thing,—so go your way;
 I am not such a simple elf,
 I order’d supper for myself;
 And what I call for, I shall pay for;
 So get you gone, what do you stay for?”
 This he concluded with a frown;
 Away the landlord trundled down;

And Joseph's answer did declare,
Which made them at each other stare,
With equal wonder who the devil
Could send an answer so uncivil
To their request so complisant,
He must both sense and reason want:
A gentleman he could not be,
So void of all civility.

The gentleman was vex'd, and swore,
He ne'er was serv'd so before;
As to himself he did not mind.
But to his wife it was unkind:
So, pray ye, landlord, go again,
(Although to send you gives me pain)
And tell him I shall sup below,
But hope some favour he will show,
Accept the company of my bride,
The ladies should not be deny'd."

Accordingly, the landlord went,
Told him the message that was sent,
And hop'd his answer would be mild,
Perhaps the lady was with child,
And had a longing in her crupper,
For what he'd order'd for his supper.
At this he turned bluff and blunt,
"D'yft mean (says he) to give affront;
D—n ye begone, and say no more,
You scurvy curst son of a whore,
Or else I'll kick you out of door;
Was she the queen, you stupid clod,
She should not sup with me, by G—d."

Away the landlord came again,
 And tho' he knew 'twould give them pain,
 His answer he before them laid,
 And told them what Lord Joseph said.

This made them wonder more and more,
 And vex'd them worse then all before.

Pray, landlord, tell me, if you can,
 What kind of person is this man?"

Why sir, as sure as you stand there,
 Gentleman he doth appear;

A jolly looking man—not fat,

Well dress'd and wears a gold-lac'd hat.

Why, what you say doth me surprize,

And I could wish with my own eyes

To see this man, this very night,

But privately and out of sight.

Up stairs they went and said no more,

The landlord open set the door,

To lay the cloth and spread it smooth,

The more to honour 'Squire B——h.

The table near the fire drew,

The gentleman did Joseph view,

Who strutting, *toll de roll'd* away,

Cause he'd nought else to do or say.

Guess, reader, guess, the great surprize,

That fill'd 'Squire C——n's eyes,

When this same *toll de rolling* spark,

He found was Joseph, his own clerk.

In straight he rush'd, and like a spirit,

He put poor Joseph in a fright;

Off went his hat beneath the bed,

His face grew pale, his mirth was fled.

“ Come, Joseph, come, you’re right said he
 To uphold my house’s dignity;
 I’m not displeas’d at what you’ve done,
 It’s such a noble piece of fun;
 I own, indeed, you did me vex,
 To hear you treat the other sex
 With such ill manners, and refuse
 That company which all would chuse.

Apologies you need not make,
 I hope we now shall both partake
 Of this good supper you’ve bespoke,
 And that alone will crown the joke.
 What say you?”—Y-e-s sir, if you please;
 You may have all the ducks and peas.
 “ No, Joseph, no, I do declare,
 You shall sit down and have your share,
 Since you the supper did provide,
 ’Tis proper you should stuff your hide;
 Go tell your mistress to come up,
 And we three will together sup”

Joseph obey’d, and up she came,
 The Landlord thought it pleasant game,
 So down he went, and told the story
 Not over much to Joseph’s glory,
 The waiters laugh’d to find it so,
 For *toll de roll* is now plain Joe.

Thus for to grace dramatic glory,
 Stage-hero struts in borrow’d glory,
 Proud and august as ever man saw,
 Then ends his empire in a stanza!

